RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That was what the Government thought.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know whether the Darbar Physician is an expert in maternity matters?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether Government gave any endorsement or reply to the petitioner to the effect that his petition has been forwarded to the Darbar Physician and that he must await the result?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I do not think so.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Am I to take it that he has not received any reply whatsoever?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I do not know whether the Darbar Physician has sent him a reply. Government have not sent him any reply.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Did the Government issue any instruction to the Darbar Physician asking him to give a reply to the petitioner?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Did the Government suggest to the Darbar Physician that it would be desirable to give a hearing to the petitioner?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Government did not make any such suggestion to the Darbar Physician; he was asked to enquire into the whole matter and submit a report.

Women and Children's Hospital, Trivandrum.

227. ***MR. S. J. NAIR** (*Nedumangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there are complaints in the Women and Children's Hospital, Trivandrum, about the absence of proper attendance to the in-patients;

(*b*) whether one Srimathi Ponnamma, a Christian lady, was admitted in the Maternity Ward of the above hospital on the 16th December 1933 for a delivery case;

(*c*) whether there was any complaint or agitation in the Press that the above-mentioned patient was not properly attended to;

(*d*) whether the patient was removed to the Septic Ward from the Maternity Ward;

(*e*) whether the patient was operated upon; and

(*f*) whether the patient survived the operation or succumbed in the operation?

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RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) There was recently a complaint from one Mr. K. R. Das.

(*b*) The member evidently refers to an incident on the 17th December 1933.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) She was operated upon at 2-30 P. M. on 4-5-1109, but died at 6 A. M. on the following day.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know why the patient who was first admitted into the Maternity Ward was subsequently transferred to the Septic Ward ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : On the evening of the 17th December the patient was admitted into the Maternity Ward. The next morning it was found that septic conditions had set in ; and so she was removed to the Septic Ward.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know whether, after she was admitted into the Maternity Ward, she was attended to by the medical officer concerned ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Yes.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know the name of the lady medical officer who attended on the patient ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Miss Chellamma, I think.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : May I know who operated upon the patient ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : The Surgeon in charge of the hospital.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : May I know whether any relation of the patient was let in either before the operation or after the operation before her death ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Yes.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : May I know whether it was her husband ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Yes.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : May I know whether it was at the instance of any officer in charge of the hospital that he was given admittance ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : I claim notice .

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : When did the operation take place ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : At 2-30 P. M. on 4-5-1109.

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MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know, Sir, whether the Surgeon in charge came to the hospital in the car of a relation of this patient?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know, Sir, whether, in view of the fact that it was a septic case, an operation was advisable?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That was what the Surgeon decided.

PRESIDENT: The Government member cannot sit in judgment over the operation conducted by a medical officer.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know whether opinion will be taken on this point from an expert as to the propriety of the operation?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): They have already got the opinion of the Darbar Physician who must be considered to be an expert. But if Government think it necessary to take any further expert advice, they may do so. I cannot commit Government to any definite course of action at present.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know, Sir, whether Government have any objection to place this matter in the hands of Mr. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar, who is the Superintendent in the Maternity Hospital, Madras, and get his opinion?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*) On a point of order. The member is not asking for information but is giving a suggestion.

PRESIDENT: I am afraid that that question cannot be allowed.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): May I know from the member who attended this patient in the hospital?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Doctor in charge at the time.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): May I know the name of the particular Doctor?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Miss Chellamma.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): May I know, Sir, who transferred her to the Maternity Ward?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Doctor who was in attendance at the time.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): May I know the name of that particular Doctor?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): May I know the names of the particular Doctors who were in charge of different wards at the time?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, I cannot answer that question. There are several Doctors, to each of whom is assigned a certain number of wards and I cannot say which Doctor was in charge of a particular ward.

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MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*). May I know from the member whether the Surgeon in charge received any remuneration from the patient?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): May I know from the member whether that remuneration has been ordered to be refunded?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No.

Malpractice in the Women and Children's Hospital, Taikad.

228. ***MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI** (*Anbalapuzha I*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether any case of medical malpractice was reported to them in regard to in-patients admitted to the Women's Hospital at Taikad;

(*b*) if so, whether the question was investigated; and

(*c*) what is the result of the investigation; if any?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) It is not possible to furnish the information required by the member, as no period has been specified.

Death of an in-patient in the Women and Children's Hospital.

229. ***MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN** (*Mavelikara*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Chief Secretary has received a memorial dated 8th January 1934 from one K. R. Das praying for an inquiry into the circumstances in which his wife, Ponnamma, died in the Women and Children's Hospital on 20-12-1933 and the conduct of some of the Doctors and Midwives attending upon that patient;

(*b*) whether a copy of the same would be laid on the table; and

(*c*) whether any action has been taken on the same?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Yes.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): With regard to the answer to part (*c*), may I know what action has been taken?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have answered it already, Sir. I have said that the answer is confidential.

PRESIDENT: This question has been repeated and repeated in the course of the few questions that were asked on this matter.

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